

MARKED DROP IN NEW CASES IS OBSERVED

Pneumonia Only Barrier to Successful Fight Against Spread Here

HUNDREDS INOCULATED

Entire State Looks to S. F. for Vaccine; Supplies of Serum Sent Out

THE general wearing of the mask in San Francisco is making itself felt on the influenza epidemic, says Health Officer W. C. Hassler.

The number of strictly new cases reported yesterday took a marked drop and at the close of the official day was only 837. There was a total of 1518 cases turned in during the day, but 681 of these were old cases that came in through the mails several days late.

But while the new cases are falling off, the heavy days of last week, when the daily reports reached 2000, are now making themselves felt in the record of deaths. The death list for the twenty-four hours ending at 5 o'clock last night was 124, the largest so far. The total of deaths for the preceding day was 90. Deaths from the influenza epidemic so far in this city have now reached 801.

However, the pneumonia cases handled by the Emergency Hospital service on Monday numbered only 136, which, though the highest figure up to that time, was only four more than on the previous day, until when they had been increasing by twenty a day. The Emergency service expected its pneumonia cases yesterday to equal those of Monday.

SITUATION BETTER

The hospital situation was said to be better yesterday. Although the halls, corridors, porches and roof of the San Francisco Hospital were all being used, it was, nevertheless, possible to place all the cases that came in.

A new ward was opened yesterday afternoon and the children's ward was evacuated, the patients being sent to the Children's Hospital. The city has taken over 250 beds at the Children's Hospital, from which all patients not suffering from influenza have been taken to the University of California Hospital.

The Red Cross building is expected to be ready for hospital use today. The unit of naval hospital apprentices from Goat Island was sent over yesterday by Rear-Admiral Joseph L. Jayne and was organized for work. C. M. Wollenberg, superintendent of the Relief Home, has been placed in charge of the new hospital in the Red Cross building. Because the structure is a frame building, Fire Chief Thomas R. Murphy yesterday detailed a chemical engine to remain on duty at the hospital night and day.

Hospital facilities were also increased yesterday by the offer by Dr. W. B. Coffey of the United Railroads of twenty-five beds for convalescents in a hospital which he had fitted up in the Presidio avenue carbarn.

Although the amount of the Leary vaccine received in the shipment from Boston was much less than had been expected, it was supplied yesterday generally to hospitals for the inoculation of employes and patients and to a selected list of hospitals for the free inoculation of the public.

These hospitals, at which all comers are inoculated with the Leary vaccine free of charge, are the University of California Hospital, the Children's Hospital, Mount Zion Hospital, Lane Hospital, the Central Emergency Hospital and the Harbor Emergency Hospital. The St. Francis Hospital was added to the list last night.

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AND INOCULATED

The University of California Hospital is giving the treatment to all comers from 1 to 4 o'clock every day including Sunday. Up to last night it had inoculated upward of 100 persons.

The Children's Hospital clinic receives all applicants for the inoculation at any time during the day and has already handled about 300.

At Mount Zion Hospital nearly 500 persons have been treated at the dispensary. Yesterday morning from 75 to 100 were given the Leary vaccine. Last night the dispensary was held open for the inoculation of all Wells Fargo employes who wished to apply. This morning between 10 and 12 the dispensary will be open for the administration of the Leary vaccine to all applicants without charge.

Lane Hospital, which has given the vaccine to about seventy-five persons since it began Monday night, is receiving applicants between 4 and 5 in the afternoon.

The St. Francis Hospital has opened a station for inoculation with Leary vaccine and will receive applicants daily between 2 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Dr. L. L. Jones of the hospital staff is in charge.

The Central Emergency Hospital

and the Harbor Emergency Hospital service applicants for the inoculation at all hours. The Harbor Emergency Hospital was equipped yesterday afternoon with a special unit of the inoculating machine.

A special messenger was sent yesterday to the Board of Health to secure the Leary vaccine. It is expected that a shipment of the vaccine will arrive in the city today.

As San Francisco is the only city in California that has a dispensary of vaccine, calls for it have been coming in from many counties. Berkeley, Sutter and Yuba counties are among the ones that have made requests for the vaccine.

The school teachers of the city have volunteered generally for service in the campaign against the epidemic according to Miss Agnes Morgan of the Board of Education. At the San Francisco Hospital 114 teachers are serving as nurses or messengers and handling the entire telephone system. At the same hospital the members of the High School faculties are running the laundry, handling the telephone board and manning the gates. Other teachers are working at the Board of Health, the Red Cross and at Mount Zion and Mary's Help hospitals. Large numbers of teachers are doing investigating work for the Red Cross and the Board of Health and doing work in the homes in all districts.

SCHOOLS UTILIZED

The Bernal Heights, Laguna Honda and Portola schools have been made Red Cross centers. The ungraded primary school on Telegraph Hill has been turned into a hospital for children, and the Daniel Webster School in the Potrero has been made a general hospital.

The Police Department also has given material service to the campaign, according to Health Officer Hassler. The patrol wagons have been generally used for the transportation of cases when ambulances were unavailable, and in the absence of hospital stewards policemen have handled the patients themselves.

The grand total of cases for San Francisco is now 17,517, of which far more than half are regarded as cured.

In the State as a whole, according to Dr. W. C. Billings of the United States public health service, there is little appreciable change. Improvement is reported in some places, but additional doctors have been called for in others.

While the epidemic prevails provisions of the Federal statute forbidding the refilling of prescriptions for narcotics will be suspended, it was announced yesterday by Collector of Internal Revenue Justus S. Wardell. Prescriptions including narcotics may be refilled he said if the physician notes on each prescription "repeat if necessary," and the druggist notes on the prescription the date of each refilling.